



American Government

www.americangovernment.abc-clio.com

Quick Tips

ABC-CLIO Schools' critically acclaimed *American Government* subscription database guides students in connecting the most-talked-about issues of our day with the foundations of government. In addition to daily UPI Washington news, students can analyze political cartoons and learn about different viewpoints through political commentaries. Along with short videos, quotes, abstracts, and more, this database includes comparisons of the United States' and other nations' political and economic systems and directories of contact information for non-profit organizations and governmental agencies.

Overview of American Government



On the homepage you'll find special features, including "Washington News" and "Feature Story" articles that provide you with detailed information on a particular topic in American government.

In the vertical toolbar on the left-hand side you'll see links to topic explorations and advanced search, along with tools including Ask the Cybrarian—a special feature that allows you to submit a question to an ABC-CLIO Schools editor—and research lists. If your teacher has created a list of resources for you to review, this is where you'll find them.

Using Site Search

You'll also find the following search options:

- Site Search is the best for quick searches on one or two keywords
- Advanced Search narrows your search down to a specific time period or category
- Topic Explorations are great for research or review when you need help getting started



Located at the top left of every screen, Site Search offers a quick text search of all content areas of the database.

Searches look for all words entered.

- Use a comma to separate multiple search terms
Example: law, congress
- Use "or" to find either word
Example: supreme court or law
- Use "-" to exclude a word
Example: congress, -law
- For an exact phrase, enclose in quotation marks
Example: "congressional law"

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Using Advanced Search



- Get instant access to thousands of reference resources by choosing one or a combination of criteria, then clicking on the Search button
- To narrow a search, select a specific topic or subtopic from the list on the right
- Enter any relevant key words into the text box, following the same guidelines as when using a basic search
- To further narrow a search by type of resource, select a category (or categories) from the Reference list (in blue)
- The categories include biographies, audio clips, overview essays, and primary source documents
- The red Additional Resource list offers an archive of topic explorations as well as the feature stories found on the home page

Search Results



- Whether you use a basic or advanced search, your results will be returned in a format similar to the screen on the left.
- All search results will be sorted into categories. Each category provides different resources for use in your research
- For example, in this search we are using the keyword Supreme Court
 - If you want to learn about current news stories involving the Court, you should choose the News category
 - If you are interested in a particular ruling, you should choose the Court Cases category
 - Additional resources, including topic explorations and feature articles can be found in the shaded boxes at the bottom of the page

Using Topic Explorations



- The Topic Explorations are a great starting point for research or review
- First, choose the relevant area of study by clicking on the right-hand toolbar
- Once a topic has been chosen, a second screen will pop up. Here, you will again narrow your search by topic, then choose a broad theme to research
- Once you've chosen a theme, you'll be taken to an overview page. You can use the toolbar above the overview to navigate to other features—including quizzes, biographies, discussion questions, and research lists—in the Topic Exploration